



A.M.D.G.

CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.

DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK V94 W6W8

Christmas 2018

Dear friends

A Crescent Christmas begins when the Christmas **tree and crib** appear in the Central Area. We are grateful to those members of staff who arrange for the sourcing and delivery of the tree and those who decorate everything so beautifully. The tree and crib are the signal for us that the season of Advent has arrived, during which we have Morning Prayer each day in the chapel at 8.45am. We held our **Carol concert on Monday 10 December** and those of us who attended, students, teachers and proud parents, were treated to a lovely evening of music and song.

I am grateful to the **parent social and cultural committee** who help to make that occasion so festive. They have also provided a welcome cup of tea or coffee at the PT meetings for 6th years, 3rd years and TY students; the committee members, along with our school prefects contribute significantly to the smooth running of these events, which can, at times, be tense affairs. The remaining PT meetings are scheduled for early 2019. The Parent Council meet each month also and liaise with management and teachers in the school which is very beneficial to our work on behalf of the students.

The school show, **Fame** was a tremendous success; the cast and crew, principals and chorus, deserve our praise and admiration. A big 'thank you' to Emma, Lisa, Joe and Bill and all other teachers who helped make this production such a triumph.

Details of our **Christmas study programme** are on the website. Admission is now closed. Naturally the programme allows for breaks and rest over the Christmas period, which are as valuable as the hours spent studying, because recovery time is essential.

Second and fifth years have completed their Christmas exams and TY their DATs (differential aptitude tests). We acknowledge the effort that students have put into their exams and CBAs (classroom based assessments). At Crescent we provide a very varied programme of ex-curricular activities and supports for our students, as we believe in our mission statement. Doing your best academic work forms part of this and is a reason why Crescent continues to perform to a very high standard across all areas. I applaud the dedication of students and their teachers to their work. I remind you that the *Jesuit mission in education intends that students grow towards freedom and responsibility in a community of learning in which they experience personal support (cura personalis) and strive for excellence in all things (the magis).*

Crescent is ranked very high in league tables again this year. This is a remarkable achievement for the College. We all know that these tables use narrow criteria and only measure one small element of school life, progression to third level education; however it is

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very encouraging and a great credit to the teachers and students that a school such as ours, with a mixed academic and economic intake can compete with fee paying, single sex, and for the most part considerably smaller schools. This combined with the findings of our **Whole school inspection** is very affirming and positive and I thank you all for playing your part in this.

Our students are engaged in charity work, which continues throughout the year. At our **Christmas Assembly** on 12 December we acknowledged their efforts in raising money for our nominated charities, many of which are partners with the College in our Social Placement and Fast Friends programmes.

In other significant news our development project has been approved to move to the next stage; so we hope that building work and reroofing will begin in 2019. I acknowledge here again the wonderful generosity offered by the Society of Jesus in funding the construction of science laboratories which has made this possible.

Christmas Eve Mass, to which you are all welcome, will be celebrated in the Central Area at 9pm, with Fr Jim Maher SJ as celebrant. I would like to thank you all sincerely for your support for the College this year and I wish you and your families the peace and joy of Christmas.

God bless

Karin Fleming
Principal & Secretary of the Board of Management

